

a user that still images exist in the card memory and how much the remaining memory is, and announces an alert that the user cannot take full picture frames allowed to the camera.

5 Although three embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes may be made in these embodiments without departing from the principles and spirit of the invention, the
10 scope of which is defined in the claims and their equivalents.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 15 1. An image recorder comprising:
 a storage that stores data of a visual broadcast program;
 a playback that plays back the visual broadcast program on the basis of the data stored in the storage; and
20 a questioner that makes a question of whether or not the data of the visual broadcast program is to be automatically deleted from the storage after the playback of the visual broadcast program is terminated.
- 25 2. The image recorder according to claim 1 wherein the storage includes a randomly accessible recording medium.
- 30 3. The image recorder according to claim 1 wherein the storage includes a hard disc built in the image recorder.
- 35 4. The image recorder according to claim 1 wherein the questioner is designed to make a question of whether or not a partial data of the visual broadcast program that has been played back is to be automatically deleted from the storage if the playback of the visual broadcast program is terminated at the middle.

5. The image recorder according to claim 1 wherein the questioner is designed to make a question of whether or not the data of the entire visual broadcast program is to be automatically deleted from the storage even if the playback of the visual broadcast program is terminated at the middle.

6. The image recorder according to claim 1 wherein the questioner is designed to make the question only on a broadcast program on which the question has not been made yet.

7. The image recorder according to claim 6 wherein the questioner is designed to make the question only on a broadcast program that has been completely played back.

8. The image recorder according to claim 1 wherein the questioner is designed to make the question on a broadcast program the playback of which is terminated at the middle even if the question has already been made on the broadcast program.

9. The image recorder according to claim 1 wherein the storage is capable of storing another kind of image data than the visual broadcast program, and wherein the questioner is responsive to the kind of the played back image data to make the question.

10. The image recorder according to claim 9 wherein the other kind of image data is of an image taken by a digital camera.

11. The image recorder according to claim 9 wherein the questioner is designed not to make the question on the other kind of image data even if the playback of the image data is terminated.

12. An image recorder comprising:

a receiver that receives broadcast data including a visual broadcast program and additional data relating to the visual broadcast program and;

a storage that stores the visual broadcast program and the additional data separately from the

visual broadcast program so that the relationship between the visual broadcast program and the additional data is retrieval.

13. The image recorder according to claim 12,
5 further comprising a recording controller that puts an index on at least one of the visual broadcast program and the additional data for indicating the relationship to the other.

14. The image recorder according to claim 12
10 further comprising a playback that plays back the visual broadcast program and the additional data relating to the visual broadcast program on the basis of the broadcast data stored in the storage.

15. The image recorder according to claim 12,
15 wherein the additional data includes a homepage address of the Internet relating to the visual broadcast program.

16. The image recorder according to claim 12
20 wherein the storage includes a randomly accessible recording medium.

17. The image recorder according to claim 16
wherein the storage includes a hard disc built in the image recorder.

18. An image recorder comprising:
25 a receiver that receives data of a plurality of visual broadcast programs at once;

a storage that stores the data of visual broadcast programs;

a selector that selects at least one of the
30 visual broadcast programs; and

a recording controller that interrupts the storage of the data of the selected visual broadcast program with the storage of the data of at least another visual broadcast program continued.

19. The image recorder according to claim 18
35 further comprising an output circuit that outputs at least one of the received visual broadcast

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programs to monitor the contents thereof for the purpose of the selection by the selector.

20. The image recorder according to claim 19 further comprising a playback that plays back the visual broadcast program on the basis of the data stored in the storage, wherein the output circuit to give priority to out putting the visual broadcast program played back by playback over out putting the visual broadcast program selected by the selector, while playing back the visual broadcast program by the playback.

21. The image recorder according to claim 18 further comprising a manually operable member that causes the recording controller to interrupt the storage of the selected visual broadcast program.

22. The image recorder according to claim 21 further comprising a remote controller, wherein the manually operable member is arranged at the remote controller.

23. The image recorder according to claim 21 further comprising a display device that displays a information related to the visual broadcast program selected by the selector.

24. An image recorder comprising:
a receiver that receives data of a plurality of visual broadcast programs at once;

a first selector that selects a set of visual broadcast programs among the received visual broadcast programs;

a storage that stores the visual broadcast programs selected by the first selector;

a second selector that selects at least one of the visual broadcast programs among the set of visual broadcast programs selected by the first selector for monitoring the visual broadcast program selected by the second selector.

25. The image recorder according to claim 24

further comprising:

an output circuit that outputs a signal for monitoring the visual broadcast program; and
a playback that plays back the visual broadcast
5 program on the basis of the data stored in the storage,

wherein the output circuit gives priority to the visual broadcast program played back by the playback over the visual broadcast program selected by the
10 second selector.

26. An image recorder comprising:

a storage that stores data of a plurality of visual broadcast programs;

a playback that plays back the visual broadcast
15 program on the basis of the data stored in the storage;

a selector that selects a visual broadcast program to be played back;

a first controller that controls the start and
20 stop of the playback of a first visual broadcast program, the first controller stopping the playback of the first visual broadcast program in response to the selector selecting the second visual broadcast program; and

a second controller that controls the start and
25 stop of the playback of a second visual broadcast program, the second controller starting the playback of the second visual broadcast program in response to the selector selecting the second visual
30 broadcast program.

27. The image recorder according to claim 26 further comprising a mode changer between a first mode of monitoring a single visual broadcast program and a second mode of monitoring a plurality of visual
35 broadcast program at once, wherein the first controller is responsive to the selector selecting the second broadcast program only in the first mode

for continuing the playback of the first visual broadcast program even if the selector selects the second visual broadcast program in the second mode.

28. An image recorder comprising:

5 a storage that stores data of visual broadcast programs;

 a controller that starts a playback of a visual broadcast program on the basis of the data stored in the storage in the course of storing another
10 visual broadcast program into the storage;

 a first manually operable member that stops the playback on the basis of the data stored in the storage; and

 a second manually operable member that stops
15 the storage of data into the storage.

29. The image recorder according to claim 28 further comprising a third manually operable member that starts the storage of data into the storage, wherein the second manually operable member is
20 arranged closer to the third manually operable member than to the first manually operable member.

30. The image recorder according to claim 28 further comprising a third manually operable member that starts the playback on the basis of data stored
25 in the storage, wherein the first manually operable member is arranged closer to the third manually operable member than to the second manually operable member.

31. An image recorder comprising:

30 a storage that stores data of a visual broadcast program;

 a playback that plays back the visual broadcast program on the basis of the data stored in the storage;

35 a first controller that intermits the playback; and

 a second controller that restarts the playback

at a scene that is located by returning for a while from the scene of the intermission.

32. The image recorder according to claim 31 further comprising a timer that measures the lapse of time from the intermission, wherein the second controller restarts the playback without the return of the scene if the lapse of the time is less than a predetermined period.

33. An image recorder comprising:
10 a receiver that receives a plurality of visual broadcast programs;
a selector that selects one of the visual broadcast programs; and
an aid that facilitates the selection so that
15 visual broadcast programs that have been selected with higher frequency are presented with easier accessibility for the selection.

34. The image recorder according to claim 33, wherein the aid includes a list in which the visual
20 broadcast programs that have been selected with higher frequency are shown with higher priority.

35. The image recorder according to claim 33, wherein the aid is designed to automatically change the visual broadcast programs in response to the
25 current time.

36. An image recorder comprising:
a first receiver that receives data of a visual broadcast program;
a second receiver that receives a digital image
30 data taken by a digital camera;
a storage capable of storing both the data of visual broadcast program and the digital image data;
a recording circuit capable of recording both the data of visual broadcast program and the digital
35 image data into the storage; and
a controller that controls the recording circuit to give priority to the data of visual

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broadcast program over the digital image data.

37. The image recorder according to claim 36, wherein the digital image data is a digital still image taken by a digital still camera.

5 38. The image recorder according to claim 36, wherein the controller is designed to control the recording circuit to postpone the recording of the digital image data until the recording of the visual broadcast program is closed.

10 39. The image recorder according to claim 36 wherein the controller is designed to control the recording circuit to record the digital image data with the data of visual broadcast program being recorded at the same time, if available.

15 40. An image recorder comprising:
a first receiver that receives data of a visual broadcast program;

a second receiver that receives a digital still image data taken by a digital still camera;

20 a storage capable of storing both the data of visual broadcast program and the digital still image data; and

a recording circuit that records the digital still image data into the storage so as to be distinguishable from the data of visual broadcast program upon accessing the data in the storage.

25 41. The image recorder according to claim 40 wherein the second receiver includes a memory slot into which a removable memory coming from the digital still camera is capable of being inserted.

30 42. The image recorder according to claim 40 further comprising a controller that controls the recording circuit to record the digital image data with the data of visual broadcast program being recorded at the same time.

35 43. An image recorder comprising:
a first receiver that receives data of a visual

a storage capable of storing both the data of
5 visual broadcast program and the digital image data;

a controller that controls the recording
 10 circuit to record the digital image data with the
 data of visual broadcast program being recorded at
 the same time.

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        a first receiver that receives data of a visual
15 broadcast program:

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a storage that stores both the data of visual broadcast program and the digital image data;

a controller that controls the playback circuit to give priority to the visual broadcast program over the digital image data.

a first receiver that receives data of a visual broadcast program;

30 a storage that stores both the data of visual
broadcast program and the digital still image data;

a manually operable controller that controls
35 the playback both on the basis of the data of visual
broadcast program and on the basis of the digital
still image data.

46. An image recorder comprising:

a first receiver that receives data of a visual broadcast program;

5 a second receiver that receives a digital still image data taken by a digital still camera;

a storage capable of storing both the data of visual broadcast program and the digital still image data;

10 a recording circuit capable of recording both the data of visual broadcast program and the digital still image data into the storage; and

a manually operable controller that controls the recording circuit both upon recording the data of visual broadcast program and on recording the digital still image data.

47. The image recorder according to claim 46 wherein the second receiver includes a memory slot into which a removable memory coming from the digital still camera is capable of being inserted.

20 48. An image recorder comprising:

a built-in memory of a large capacity that stores a plurality of image data;

a memory slot into which a removable memory is capable of being inserted;

25 a detector capable of detecting the insertion of the removable memory in the memory slot;

a power circuit that supplies electric power to the image recorder: and

30 a power controller that controls the power circuit to supply electric power automatically in response to the detector detecting the insertion of removable memory.

49. An image recorder comprising:

35 a built-in memory of a large capacity that stores a plurality of image data;

a memory slot in which a removable memory is capable of being inserted;

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5 a controller that controls the receiver to start reception of the image data from the removable memory to the built-in memory in response to the detector detecting the insertion of removable memory.

a memory slot in which a removable memory is capable of being inserted;

a playback circuit that plays back the digital
20 image data stored in the built-in memory; and

51. An image recorder comprising:

a memory slot in which a removable memory is capable of being inserted;

30 a receiver that receives the image data from
the removable memory to the built-in memory; and

a controller that controls the playback circuit to play back the image data even if the receiver is in the course of receiving the image data.

a receiver that receives data of a visual broadcast programs;

a memory slot into which a removable memory coming from a digital camera is capable of being inserted for receiving digital image data taken by the digital camera;

5 a storage capable of storing both the data of the visual broadcast program and the digital image data;

10 a recording circuit that records the digital image data into the storage so as to be distinguishable from the data of visual broadcast program upon accessing the data in the storage.

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